

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
H-218, Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John W. Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$424 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that over \$3.5 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS. In light of budget realities, however, we ask for \$424 million to help those in the greatest need.

While major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and necessities such as housing. Individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to, and/or benefit from, complex drug treatments which often require special dietary needs. Homeless or unstably housed HIV infected persons experience higher viral loads and more hospitalizations than those who are stably housed. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care.

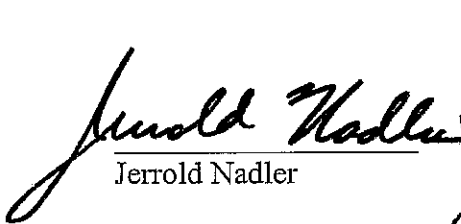
At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility to states and communities to implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with AIDS.


In FY 2006 alone, HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to over 71,500 households in 122 jurisdictions across 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia through competitive and formula grants. Unfortunately, the demand for housing accommodations for people living with HIV/AIDS continues to greatly outweigh the resources currently available.

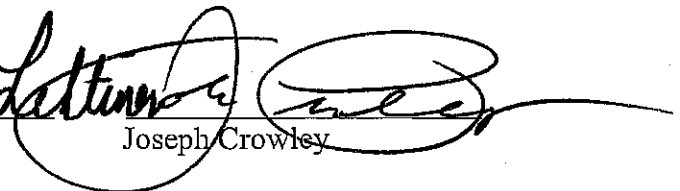
Recent studies show that people with housing are at a much lower risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS. The HOPWA program offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability necessary to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality in this nation. We therefore urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of \$424 million for HOPWA in the Fiscal Year 2007 VA/HUD Appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

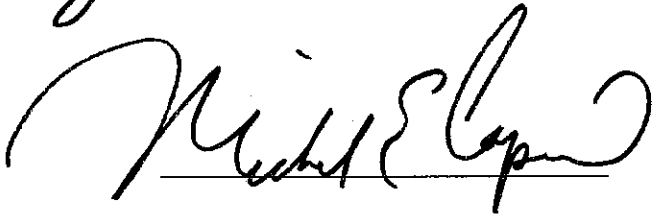
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

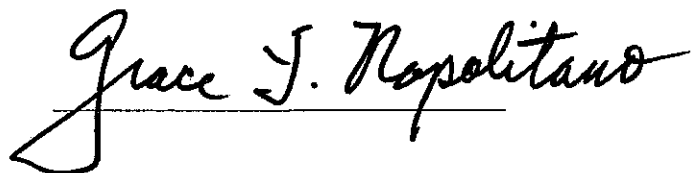
Sincerely,


Jerrold Nadler


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

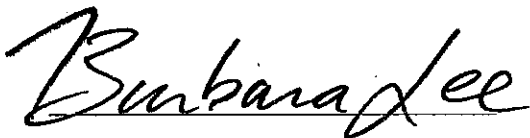

Joseph Crowley

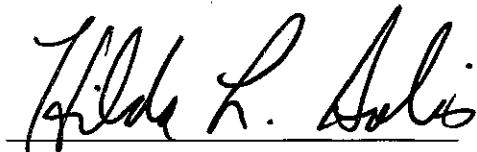

Michael E. Caputo

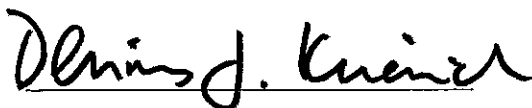

Grace J. Napolitano


Lois Capps

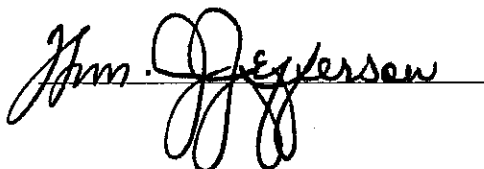

Michael M. Hahn

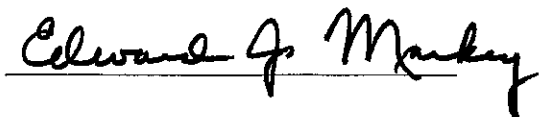

Barbara Lee


Hilda R. Solis


Dennis J. Kucinich


Emanuel


Jim Jefferson


Edward J. Markey

Joe Stoff

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Diane E. Watson

Arten Davis

Nehal Wexler

Adam Smith

Caroleen McCauley

Cedric Schiff

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Michael H. Michael

Ed Case

John F. Tierney

Wm. Lacy Clay

Hyatt Duggan

Mrs. Simmons

Marjorie O'Donnell

Stephen J. Lynch

Jeff Ancelet

Gene Israel

Shelley Berkley

Art Kilke

Bill McNeil

Gene Price

Edwin L. Engel

Jim Lynch
Rosa L. Delaney

Lynn A. Woodsey

Harry L. Ackerman

Walter H. Kern

Jim Moran

Elwood E. Cummings

William L. Watts

Bl. St.

Michael R. McNulty

Ben Card

Donald M. Payne

George Miller

Henry A. Waxman

Arthur Fattar

Major R. Owens

Jim Davis

John B. Rame

Ruth Holt

John L. Rame
Glenn Tauschen

Kendrick Mae

Daniel Lipinski

Sam Farr

Rahn Emanuel

Tom Uhl

Jim Rame

Steph Lyle

Tammy Baldwin

Betty McCollum

Jim McDermott

R

Tom Uhl

Ausan Davis

Ron Kind

Phil English

Edis O. Matsui

Carolyn S. only

Gene Inman

Mr. V. Gutierrez

Rubin Hinojosa

Nathan Delahut

James H. Hillman & Son

Jane Harmon

John Long Jr.

Wendell

John A. H. H. H.

John B. H.

Charles B. H.

Norm. Decker

Louise M. Slaughter

Corine Brown

Earl Blumenau

Warty M. H.

Warty Wats

Bill Russell Jr.

Phil Van Nolle

Neil Awarumbie

Rail M. Hijalua

Frank

Eddie Benjohann

Alvin

Bess Carmichael

Dana Abbott

Danny K. Davis

Benny Crabb

Jed Strickland

Pete Stark

James Langewies

Paul Hill

Signatories of the FY07 HOPWA Appropriations Letter:

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baldwin
Berkley
Blumenauer
Brown, Corrine
Brown, Sherrod
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carnahan
Case
Christensen
Clay
Cleaver
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis, Artur
Davis, Danny
Davis, Jim
Davis, Susan
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Emanuel
Engel
English
Farr
Fattah
Frank
Green, Al

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Inslee
Israel
Jefferson
Johnson, EB
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larson
Leach
Lee
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meehan
Meek
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Brad
Miller, George
Moran

Nadler
Napolitano
Norton
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Peterson, Collin
Price, David
Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith, Adam
Solis
Stark
Strickland
Tauscher
Tierney
Tubbs Jones
Udall, Mark
Udall, Tom
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey